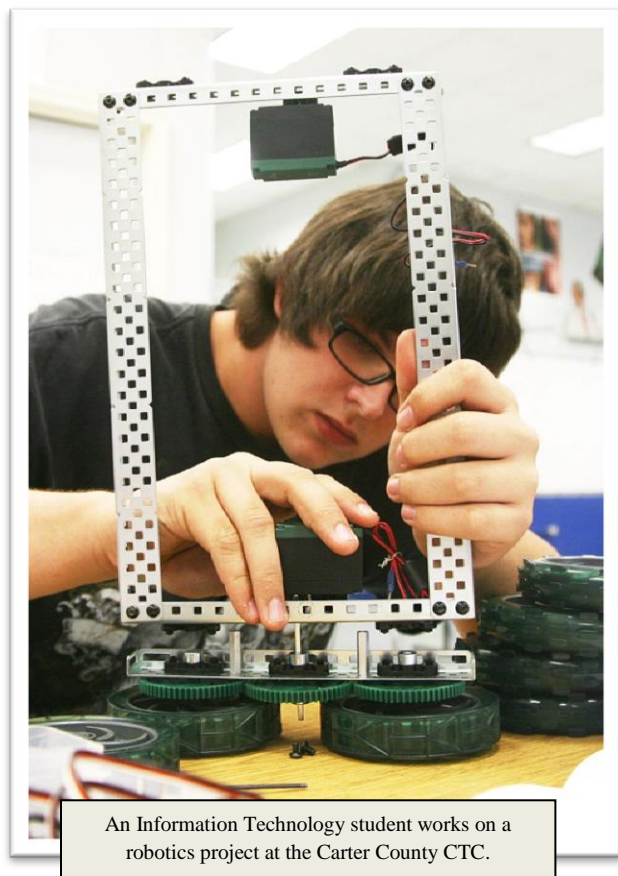


Carter County CTC: Filling the Needs of Students and the Community

Every program in the Carter County Career and Technical Center (CTC) is involved in some sort of learning activity that not only benefits students but often the community, Principal Steve Stubbs said.



An Information Technology student works on a robotics project at the Carter County CTC.

“Though we are situated in a rural area of the state, our students are getting real-world, big-time educational skills that have and will continue to take them as far as they want to go, from their local community to communities around the world,” said Stubbs.

As is often the case, CTCs and Area Technology Centers (ATCs) provide valuable services to community groups as well as their own school systems.

“Currently the Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) students and SkillsUSA members are collaborating with the Construction Technology (CT) program on a project at Carter Caves State Resort Park,” Stubbs said. “The students are redesigning many of the fairways at the mini-golf course and have created many conceptual designs, as well as detailed drawings, for some of the fairways. These detailed drawings are being used by the carpentry class to build to size the new additions to the miniature golf course.”

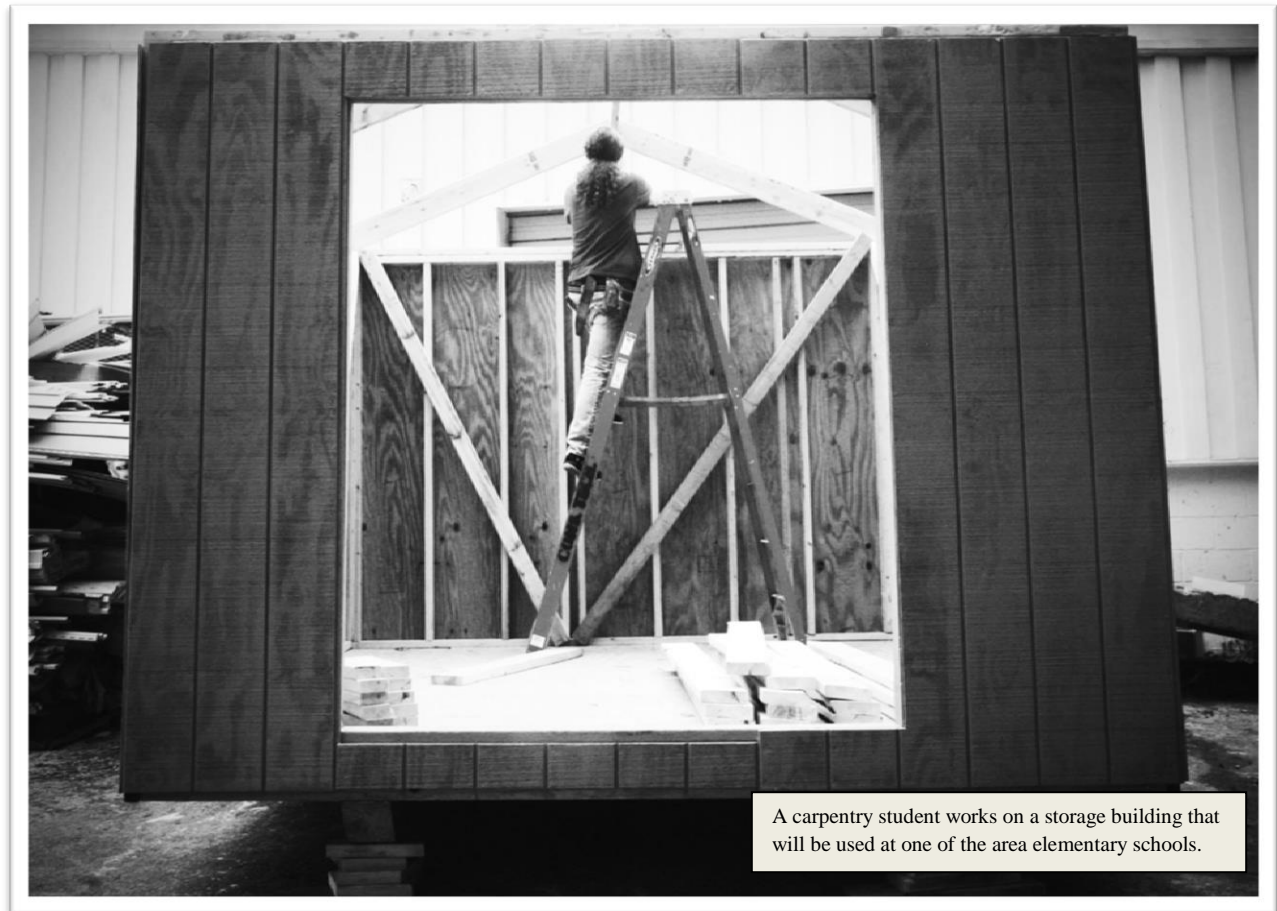
The CT program, taught by Larry Dacci, also is building storage buildings to be used at some of the local schools.

“When our teachers bring their programs together in a collaborative effort, the result is always something bigger than either program, and it is always good,” said Stubbs.

The CAD class, taught by Stephanie Hensley, also has created drawings for a shelter house at one of the local elementary schools and has worked with local general contractor Lowell Burton to create residential floor plans that have been built in the community.

Stubbs said the class benefits students as they transition from high school to a postsecondary level.

“Many of the students leaving the program go on to postsecondary training where they have earned degrees as technical draftsmen, designers, engineering technologist and engineers,” Hensley said. “I have had other students leave the program after two years and enroll in a welding, electrical or construction program at the postsecondary level. These students often come back and tell me how much their drafting knowledge has allowed them to advance in their careers.”



The Information Technology program, taught by Brian Coleman, also is proving to be a great starting point for college and career for students.

“We believe that it is not enough to merely enter the workforce with the necessary technical and soft skills but to excel and demonstrate the standard for others to follow,” said Stubbs.

“Additionally, students may choose to seek postsecondary degrees at either two- or four-year institutions. To that end, our students diligently work to acquire the skills, character and knowledge necessary to successfully complete their chosen area of study and/or degree.”

Statistically, more than three-fourths of the Information Technology (IT) graduates at Carter County CTC move on to the postsecondary level.

IT students are assisting the Olive Hill Chamber of Commerce in designing, developing and implementing a community service cable TV channel via the construction and sound-proof video and audio recording studio, Stubbs said.

The class also has developed an advanced robotics demonstration for the middle school's robotics competition to be held at Ashland Community and Technical College.



Computer Aided Drafting students help create the design of a school kiosk that allows visitors to view all the programs in the school and contact

What really measures the success of a program is the success of its students, said Stubbs. And the IT program alone has plenty to brag about, including a student who designed and fabricated a component on a NASA satellite orbiting the earth. Another IT student received a Computer Engineering degree from the University of Louisville and now works from home in Denton for a company that services more than 85 percent of the nation's airports' computerized arrival, departure and announcement systems as a computer programmer. Still one more student is employed by the military in a high-level security position for the United Nations offices in Geneva, Switzerland, as a computer security engineer specialist.



CAD students also learn to draft the old fashion way to better understand the program.

"These are students from a very small town who are getting a very big educational opportunity," said Stubbs. "And those are just samples of the successes that have come from here and will continue to come from here."

Along with the high-tech programs, Carter County CTC is steeped deep in the traditional programs, as well.

"The welding program, for instance, is essential to the community as welding jobs make up a large portion of our area's industry," said Stubbs. "While in the program and working to learn and become a welder with industry standards, the students are engaged in real-world projects, which are used to enhance the education they receive in the classroom with the connection to real live work."

The welding program is taught by Derek Hazlett. Hazlett is fresh out of industry and brings a real-life perspective to the students' education. Hazlett also has received his American Welding

Society Certified Welding Inspector credentials to offer students more opportunities in the welding program.

Welding students also are working with the CAD and IT departments in fabricating an information kiosk near the front entrance of the CTC that contains information about each program in the school via an interactive computer screen.

Health Science (HS) programs, taught by Mary Lou Deharte, have seen marked increases in enrollment across the nation, and Carter County is no exception. Recently HS students traveled to four of the largest elementary schools in the county to conduct vision screening for the 1st and 3rd grades. The students also are about to begin their Nursing Assistant program.

“This program will allow the students to sit for the State Registered Nursing Assistant exam,” said Stubbs. “Once the students pass the exam they will be on the Kentucky Board of Nursing state registry for nursing assistants and can work at any healthcare facility in the state.”

The HS students also have been involved in many community projects, including “Remembering 9/11 Day,” “Breast Cancer Awareness Day,” and an educational bulletin board at the school titled “Do Not Text and Drive.”

For more information about the Carter County CTC, go to www.carter.kyschools.us/CarterTechEdCenter/home/CCCTCMainPage/index_ccctc.html.



Welding students worked on a community service project, something the school does regularly.